

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the Approved Relative Caregiver (ARC)
Funding Option Program:

Aid Codes

What are the Aid Codes for the ARC program?

ANSWER: Five new aid codes have been assigned to the ARC Program:

- 2S – ARC Funding Option + federal CalWORKs;
- 2T – ARC Funding Option + state CalWORKs;
- 2U – ARC Funding Option + state CalWORKs (for nonminor dependents [NMDs]);
- 2P – ARC Funding only (state general fund); and
- 2R – ARC Funding only (state general fund) (for NMDs).

CalWORKs

If a county opts out of the ARC Program, do former ARC-eligible children have to reapply to CalWORKs?

ANSWER: If a child's ARC case is discontinued for any reason, and the relative caregiver wishes to receive CalWORKs for the child, the following applies: If the relative is needy, the CW 8 (Statement of Facts for an Additional Person) or the CW 8A (Statement of Facts to Add a Child Under 16) must be completed to add the child to the relative's CalWORKs case. If the relative is non-needy and does not have an existing case, the SAWS 2 Plus must be completed. In both cases, the relative caregiver must comply with all CalWORKs requirements for the former ARC-eligible child.

Clothing Allowance

Is a clothing allowance available under the ARC Program?

ANSWER: No. By law, the ARC payment only consists of the basic foster care rate. No supplementary payments, such as a clothing allowance, are authorized under the ARC Program.

Eligibility

Is the approved relative caregiver still eligible to receive ARC program payments if the child receives Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments?

ANSWER: The ARC payment would be offset by any social security income that an ARC-eligible child or NMD receives. Counties should follow the offset rules in MPP section 44-100.

Will a child's foster care status change if they apply for the ARC program?

ANSWER: No, the ARC program is a funding change. The foster care status and practices will stay the same.

If a child is in a guardianship, can the child still get ARC funding?

ANSWER: If a child is in a guardianship and dependency has been terminated, the child is not eligible for ARC funding. Conversely, if the child is in a guardianship and dependency has not been terminated, the child could be eligible for ARC funding. The same would be true of children who are wards.

Eligibility: Out of State

If a placement is in California but court jurisdiction is from out of state, will that placement be eligible for ARC funding from the state having jurisdiction?

ANSWER: No. The ARC Program is an optional program for California counties only. The California county with court jurisdiction has payment responsibility under the ARC Program. If the county/state of jurisdiction is outside of California (or within California but the county has not opted in to the ARC Program), there would be no ARC payment. However, the relative may be eligible for a CalWORKs payment on behalf of the child.

Emergency Assistance

Will emergency assistance (EA) be available to pay for the placement until the relative is fully approved?

ANSWER: The ARC Program funding is only available after the relative is approved and all other ARC requirements are met. The ARC Program does not change anything related to the current use of EA.

Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payment (Kin-GAP) Program

Will the Kin-Gap Program continue, or will it be replaced by the ARC Program?

ANSWER: There is no change in Kin-Gap – these are two separate programs. Kin-Gap will continue.

Will ARC cases convert to Kin-Gap cases if legal guardianship is established?

ANSWER: The ARC Program is separate from Kin-GAP and has separate requirements. However, there is nothing to preclude a relative caregiver who is receiving ARC funds on behalf of an eligible child from switching to the Kin-GAP Program if all Kin-GAP requirements are met. There is no automatic conversion of ARC cases to Kin-GAP cases.